

February 13, 2009

To: Appropriations Committee

From: Michelle Travisano, Student

RE: Naugatuck Valley Community College

Hi my name is Michelle Travisano. Today I speak before the Appropriations Committee representing Naugatuck Valley Community College to discuss the importance of community colleges and why it is important to support the budget of NVCC.

Currently, I am a full time student taking 12 credits this semester, equaling 4 classes at NVCC. On the behalf of many students at NVCC, it is important for all students to receive the benefits that college can offer. Naugatuck Valley Community College offers a significant array of degree, certificate and non-credit programs. Also, some benefits are student club activities supported by the Student Government Assembly. There is on-site tutoring, counselling center, testing centers, library resources, and computer labs. Students can learn how the fund raising process works; participate in Spring Fling, and Club Expo Exhibits, Career Day, among some more activities.

Students organize and plan trips through the activity clubs. One of my favorite clubs is the Agro-Bio Club. This club is dear to my heart because I was a member for four year in helping make NVCC campus look beautiful during commencement for the graduates. Planting flowers and helping with the landscaping of new trees of different sorts make the grounds of the campus very unique and beautiful. We learn that Connecticut is known for their beautiful trees including the State tree, the White oak; bringing to mind the Charter Oak.

The work of the Horticulture Department and the students are very dedicated to the landscaping and devote many hours of work. This department grooms students to understand the importance of the earth's ground and nature. I also experienced a trip to the New York Botanical Gardens, where I saw the most beautiful rose garden ever. Learning about the life of plants and flowers gave me a different outlook on life. The nourishment of plants and see how they grow, help me to think the same way about myself. The nourishment with the greatness of education and I too will grow.

Another club that I am involved with is the Political Science Club. This club is very important as well because it helps the students become active with politics. Some of the items we discuss are similar to the LOB. We discuss budget and how we, the students would like to spend our funds. We plan educational trips such as to the United Nations, Washington D.C., and trips overseas. Unfortunately, the parents of the young students or the older students do not get the chance to see these important sites due to money expenditures or even spare time. The college gives us the advantage to make time and allows us to explore other possibilities. To broaden the horizons of one's self. These examples give many students a chance to decide a career path, they never dreamed of. I am one of those people. I received my associates finishing courses at NVCC in 2004 and currently I am an Intern at the LOB under Senator Gaffey. It is exciting experience and educational.

In my conclusion of the importance of NVCC, I need to mention the Staff of Professors and Staff Administration. They are all so helpful and involved in the community of students by participating in functions and take the time to address any necessary matters. In addition, the new President of NVCC, Daisy Cocco De Filippis, seems to have a strong commitment to Naugatuck Valley Community College. She takes pride for the people of the region to promote support for educational, labor, economic and community development. To the Appropriations Committee, keep the students safe and give to the future horticultures and politicians and social workers by supporting the budget and the opportunity at Naugatuck Valley Community College.

- Michelle Travisano